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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): SENSE THERAPEUTIC LIMITED [GB/GB]; Unit 4, The Switchback, Gardner Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 7RJ (GB).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): HART, Darren [GB/GB]; c/o Sense Therapeutic Limited, Unit 4, The Switchback, Gardner Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire

SL6 7RJ (GB).

SL6 7RJ (GB). GODBER, Ben [GB/GB]; c/o Sense Therapeutic Limited, Unit 4, The Switchback, Gardner Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 7RJ (GB). BLACK-BURN, Jonathan, M. [GB/GB]; c/o Sense Therapeutic Limited, Unit 4, The Switchback, Gardner Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 7RJ (GB). MCANDREWS, Mike [GB/GB]; c/o Sense Therapeutic Limited, Unit 4, The Switchback, Gardner Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 7RJ (GB).

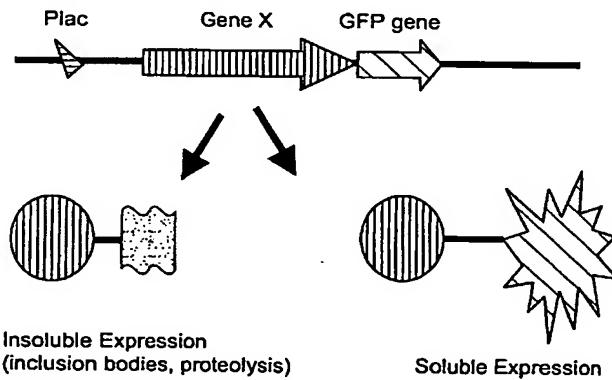
(74) Agent: MACLEAN, Martin, R.; Mathys & Squire, 100 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8AL (GB).

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(54) Title: NEW USES OF PROTEINS ENCODED BY BLE GENES AND ANTIBIOTICS FROM THE BLEOMYCIN FAMILY



WO 2004/046730 A2

(57) Abstract: The present invention provides use of a protein conjugate comprising a "ble" protein, which has specific binding properties. The protein conjugates are capable of binding reversibly to an antibiotic from the bleomycin family, which property is exploited in a variety of immobilisation methods. In preferred aspects of the invention, the conjugates are used as markers for protein expression and/or folding, or for affinity tagging. The present invention also provides a probe comprising an array of an immobilised antibody from the bleomycin family, which acts as an analyte capture moiety. In another aspect, a purification media is provided, which comprises an antibiotic of the bleomycin family as an analyte capture moiety. Also provided is a method for generating soluble forms of an insoluble protein by expressing the protein as a "ble" fusion protein and selecting in the presence of an antibiotic from the bleomycin family. In a further aspect, the "ble" protein is expressed as a fusion protein in a cell into which is introduced a labelled antibiotic of the bleomycin family, thereby allowing identification of the cellular localisation of the protein.



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